



FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

INTERIOR

Central Hazmat Fund – I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$15 million for the Central Hazmat Fund (CHF). The CHF provides funding for remediation projects on land owned by the Department and priorities are determined in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency. There is land that is contaminated with asbestos that must be remediated within Valley Forge National Historical Park. The estimated total cost of the cleanup is \$12 million, and I understand the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government are near agreement on a 60/40 cost share, in which the federal government would provide between \$4 million and \$5 million. The Administration has requested \$10.2 million for the Central Hazardous Materials Fund, an increase of \$27,000 above the 2009 enacted level. Contingent upon remediation is the construction of the Betzwood Bridge on U.S. Route 422, which would alleviate much of the traffic congestion in the area.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Centennial Initiative and Challenge – I urge the Subcommittee to fully fund the Administration's request of \$2.3 billion for the National Park Service and \$25 million for the Centennial Challenge to provide a federal match for private donations to national parks. Increasing the funding level for the National Park Service will restore and protect America's national parks legacy for future generations. This request is especially pertinent when considering the upcoming Centennial Celebration of the National Parks system in 2016. Funding the parks at these levels will benefit the deferred maintenance backlog and help restore our Parks to their iconic status.

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Heritage Partnership Program – I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$40 million for the National Park Service Heritage Partnership Program. This program provides funding to the fifty authorized National Heritage Areas, five of which are located in Pennsylvania. In light of recent funding shortfalls and the maintenance backlog at our National Parks, National Heritage Areas offer a constructive way to tell nationally important stories about the United States, while limiting property that must be managed and maintained using federal funding. Heritage areas are representative of the national experience through both the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved within them. The Administration has requested \$15.7 million for national heritage areas in fiscal year 2010. In fiscal year 2009, Congress provided \$15.702 million for National Heritage Areas. Thirteen new national heritage areas have been designated in the 110th and 111th Congresses and increased federal funding is necessary to support the heritage areas and foster their ability to leverage private and local funds.

Pennsylvania National Heritage Areas – The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is home to five National Heritage Areas: Rivers of Steel Heritage Area, Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Oil Region National Heritage Area, Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and the Schuylkill River Valley National Heritage Area. Each area is authorized to receive \$1 million per fiscal year, thus I urge the Subcommittee to

provide that level of funding to each of the five areas. Each of the Pennsylvania areas is nationally significant for their contributions to: the steel industry, anthracite coal mining industry, oil industry, transportation, agriculture, the American Revolution, Industrial Revolution and Environmental Revolution. Funding these areas at the fully authorized level will enable the areas to continue their conservation efforts of natural and cultural resources within their designated boundaries.

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING

Abandoned Mine Land Emergency Program – I urge the Subcommittee to fully fund the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Emergency Program. The AML Emergency Program was authorized by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977 (P.L. 95-87) to cleanup AML emergencies which are separate from the priority sites. Without this emergency fund, states would be forced to divert funding from non-emergency reclamation and AML waterline projects to fund emergency cleanups. It is my understanding that the passage of the 2006 SMCRA amendments (P.L. 109-432) did not include any language that mandates or authorizes states to fund or take sole responsibility for the AML Emergency Program.

I further urge the Subcommittee to include report language to allow funds made available under Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to be used as matching funds for the required non-federal share cost of acid mine drainage (AMD) projects. This action would enable local watershed groups to rely on Title IV funds as matching funds instead of having to raise the funds themselves and would help increase AMD reclamation without the need for additional federal funding. The report language is as follows:

"Provided further, That funds made available under Title IV of Public Law 95-87, as amended, may be used for any required non-federal share of the cost of projects funded by the federal Government for the purpose of environmental restoration related to treatment or abatement of acid mine drainage from abandoned mines:"

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Highlands Conservation Act – In November 2004, the President signed the Highlands Conservation Act into law (P.L. 108-421). The Highlands Conservation Act recognizes the national significance of the Highlands Region, which encompasses 3.5 million acres from Northwestern Connecticut, across the lower Hudson River in New York, through New Jersey and into east-central Pennsylvania. The Highlands Conservation Act authorizes up to \$10 million per year over 10 years for the Department of Interior to facilitate land partnership projects and open space purchases in the four-state Highland Region. I urge the Subcommittee to provide \$10 million to implement the Highlands Conservation Act. In fiscal year 2009, the program was appropriated \$1.5 million. The Administration has requested \$2 million for this program in fiscal year 2010.